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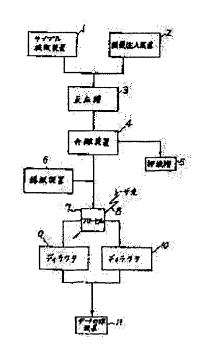
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(54) IMMUNOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To easily execute a desired analysis by bringing a labeling antigen (antibody) and antigen (antibody) in a sample into reaction then separating the same to the immune complex and the remaining antigen (antibody) (B-F sepn.) and measuring the same with a flow sight meter.

CONSTITUTION: A latex soln. conjugated with a solid phase antibody, sample and labeling antibody soln. are added by a sample drawing device 1 and a reagent injector 2 into a reaction vessel 3 contg. a buffer soln. for



reaction and the reactive liquid from the cell 3 is subjected to the B-F sepn. in a separator 4. The immune complex remaining by failing to pass through the separator 4 is diluted by the buffer soln. of a

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diluting device 6. The soln. is introduced into a flow cell 7 and light 8 is irradiated on the soln. The size of the immune complex and the fluorescence quantity /1 latex riding thereon are measured by a data processing unit 11 and the sight gram is obtd. from these two parameters. The analytical result having the high quantitative determination characteristic is thus obtd. simply by introducing the sample into the flow system.

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❷発明の名称 免疫学的分析方法

②特 類 昭59-255206

暁秀

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明 糂 書

1. 発明の名称 免疫学的分析方法

2.特許請求の難囲

1. サンプルと、抗原または抗体を所定の物質で標識した環境抗原または抗体と、抗原または抗体と、抗原または抗体を固相化した担体とを反応させた後、その反応核中の前配担体に結合した環境抗原または抗体と、結合しないそれとを分離してから、前配担体に結合した環境抗原または抗体をフローサイトメータにより測定して前記サンブル中の所定の物質を分析することを特徴とする免疫学的分析方法。

3.発明の詳細な説明

(技術分野)

本発明は免疫学的分析方法に関するものである。 (従来技術)

血液、体液等に含まれるグロブリン、酵素等の 蛋白質、ホルモン、細菌、ウィルス等はその分子 構造が類似していたり、ごく微量であるために、 通常の分析方法では同定、定量が困難である。そ こで、これらの物質の分析には、一般に抗凝抗体 反応を利用した免疫学的な分析方法が用いられて いる。

このような免疫学的分析方法には、例えば振識物質を用いるものとして、RIA(ラジオイムノアッセイ)、PIA(フルオロイムノアッセイ)等がある。また、これらの複雑物質を用いる分析方法は、測定原文を担いて、例えば複物質で複雑した抗体(抗原流体)とサンプル中の抗原(抗体)とが抗原抗体を起こした免疫複合体(Bound)と、抗原抗体を延迟与せず、自由(Pree)な状態で残余する振識抗体(抗原)と分離する操作いわゆるB-F 分離を必要とするへテロジェアス法と、必要としないホモジニアス法とに分類される。

上記のヘテロジニアス法による分析方法としては、特開昭53-10495号公報において、カラムクロマトグラフィーを利用して8-F 分離を行なうようにしたものが提案されている。これは、例えば溶液中の遊離物質 (Free) を選択的に吸着し、免疫

複合体(Baund)を吸着しないイオン交換樹脂や、 分子ふるい効果を有するゲルクロマトグラフィー 用の充填剤を吸着剤として用いてB-P 分離を行な うというものである。

しかし、このようにB-F 分離をカラムクロマトグラフィーを用いて行なうものにおいては、免疫復合体の大きさや形状にばらつきがあったり、免疫復合体と遊離物質との大きさが近接しているとB-F 分離が困難となり、精度が悪くなる。このため、例えば免疫グロブリン等の試棄として用いる流体と同じ分子や、化学的、物理的に類似した分子の拠定には使用できず、分析項目が極めて制限される。

(発明の目的)

本発明の目的は、上述した不具合を解決し、 8-F 分離を常に確実に行なうことができ、所望の 分析を容易にかつ高特度にできる免疫学的分析方 法を提供しようとするものである。

(発明の概要)

本発明の免疫学的分析方法は、サンブルと、抗

の限制により生じた散乱光と蛍光を各ディテクタ 9 および10により検出し、その出力をデータ処理 装置11で処理してサンプル中の所定の抗順を分析 する。

第2図は、本発明の分析方法における反応模式 図の一例を示すものである。本例において、符号 21は担体に用いるラテックスで、例えば5 μの均 一な径のポリスチレン製のものに物理的吸着によ り、固相抗体22が固相化されている。符号23はサ ンプルである血清等に含まれている分析対象とな る抗原で、符号24は抗原23に特異的に結合する抗 体をFITC等の軽光物質で振識した振識抗体である。 また、符号25は抗原抗体反応後の免疫複合体(Bound) であり、符号25は残余の複微抗体(Free)である。

以下、第1図に示すフローシステムにおける作用をヒト IgBの分析を例にとって説明する。この場合、第2図に示すラテックス21には抗ヒトIgB モノクロナル抗体22を吸着させる。モノクロナル抗体の使用は、より特異的に抗原と結合させる目的による。また、サンプルとしての抗原は、ヒト

原または抗体を所定の物質で標識した機能抗原または抗体と、抗原または抗体を固相化した性に を反応させた後、その反応液中の前記担体に結合した機能抗原または抗体と、結合しないそれとを分離してから、前記担体に結合した機能亢原または抗体をフローサイトメータによう選定して前記サンプル中の所定の物質を分析することを特徴とするものである。

(実施例)

第1図は本発明方法を実施するフローシステム の一例を示すものである。

本例では、抗原を含んだサンプルをサンプル探 取装置1で採取し、試築(担体および振識抗体) を試薬注入装置2より注入した後、反応被3で抗 原抗体反応を起こさせる。その後、反応液を分離 装置4に通して抗原抗体反応に関与しなかった残 余の機識抗体(Free)を排液槽5に排出して8-F 分離した後、稀釈装置6で担体を含む免疫複合体 (Bound)を緩衝液等で稀釈してフローサイトメ ータのフローセル7に流す。ここで、レーザ光8

IgB 23とし、複数抗体24にはFITC模類抗とトIgB 抗体を用いる。なお、模数抗体24は非特異吸着を少なく、また反応速度を高める目的でPab フラグメントを用いるのが望ましい。反応は、反応用級後200 μ 4 を収容する反応槽 3 に、固相抗体結合ラテックス溶液50 μ 4 と、サンプル10 μ 4 と、機動抗体溶液50 μ 4 とをサンプル操取装置 1 及びは薬注入装置 2 により添加して行なわせる。なお、これらの試棄類は、全て同時に添加しても、また抗原を固相抗体と反応させて後、標識抗体と反応させるように逐次添加しても良い。

ここで、例えば37で、10分間反応させると、固相抗体-抗原-振識抗体の免疫複合体25と残余の振識抗体26とが生成される。

その後、反応権3から300μ8の反応液を吸引し、これを分離装置4において例えば第3図に示す多孔質セラミック筒31に還してB-F分離する。 多孔質セラミックは孔の役が均一に出来でおり、例えばその孔径を1μとすると、反応液中の抗ヒトigB MCA 固相ラテックスー抗原igB -FIIC模様 抗ヒトIgB Pab フラグメントの免疫複合体25および抗原抗体反応に関与しなかった残余の固相抗体ラテックスは、ラテックスの大きさだけで5 # あるので多孔質セラミックを通過しない。

これに対し、残余の標識抗体26はその大きさがせいぜい数10mmであるため、多孔質セラミックを 通過し、これにより減過の原理で 8-F分離が行な われる。

こうして、多孔質セラミック筒31を通過できず に残った免疫複合体は、稀釈装置 6 から緩衝液を 数回流して洗浄した後、一定量の緩衝液で稀釈し て第4図に示すフローサイトメータに流して満定 する。

フローサイトメータは既に知られているように、細胞の分析専用機であり、フローセルで中のニードル35に反応後、 8-F分離を行なった溶液36を流し、レーザ光 8 をその流れに照射して細胞から発する散乱光や螢光を測定する。 通常、前方散乱光はレーザ入射光とほぼ水平に位置するディテクタ 9 で検知され、主に細胞サイズの測定に用いられ

知線度系列から同様にして求めた優光強度の検量線に基いてサンプル中のIgB 速度を求めることができる。このようにして、上述のフローシステムにサンプルを導入するだけで、簡便な反応系によりB-F 分離、適定と一速の処理を短時間(フローサイトメータは約5000粒子/sac で適定できる)で行なうことができ、しかも定置性の高い分析結果を得ることができる。

ている。整光は、レーザ光 8 の入射角に対して垂直方向に位置するディテクタ10で検知され、細胞表面の整光物質等の測定に用いられる。レーザ光 8 は単一波長であるため使用できる観光色素に制限があるが、本例の分析方法において用いる優光色素FITCは波長 489mm近くの光を吸収して波長515mmの整光を発するので、この場合は波長488 mmのArレーザを用いれば良い。

このようにして、フローサイトメータに選すと、ディテクタ9、10の出力に基いてデータ処理装置11において免疫複合体の大きされ、これら2つの光量が関に示すサイトグラムの大きが関において経動は整光量では、第5図において経動は整子を表わす。ここで、抗療流体反応に関与しなかったラテックスは、軽光を発しないのでサイトグラム中に表現されなのほところにして、対策に応じて示される。このようにして、登光量波定値が得られれば、予じめ(gB 抗原環品の既

なお、上述した実施例では、担体としてラテックスを用いたがラテックスに限らず分子量の均一な人工細胞等、測定対象に応じて任意の形状や大きさのものを用いることができる。また、本発明は競合法による分析にも有効に適用することができる。更に、本発明においては、担体を用いるものであるから、 B-『分離を上述したカラムクロマ

トグラフィーを用いて行なうこともできる。 (発明の効果)

4. 図面の簡単な説明

第1図は本発明方法を実施するフローシステム の一例を示す図、

第2図は本発明方法における一例の反応模式図、 第3図は B-P分離の一例を説明するための図、 第4図はフローサイトメータを説明するための 図、

第5回はサイトグラムの一例を示す図、

第6図は同じく他の例を示す図、 、

第7回は 8-F分離の他の例を説明するための図である。

1…サンプル採取装置

2 一鐵菜注入装置 3 …反応槽

4 … 分離装置 5 … 排液槽

6…稀釈装置 7…フローセル

8 … レーザ光 9,10 … ディテクタ

11…データ処理装置 21…ラテックス

22 --- 固相抗体 23 --- 抗原

24…標識抗体 25…免疫複合体

26 -- 残余の様微抗体

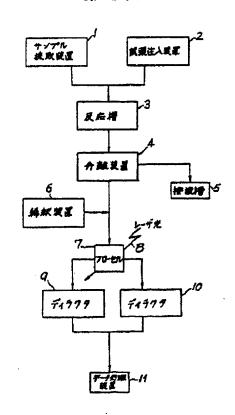
31…多孔質セラミック筒

35---ニードル 41--フローチューブ

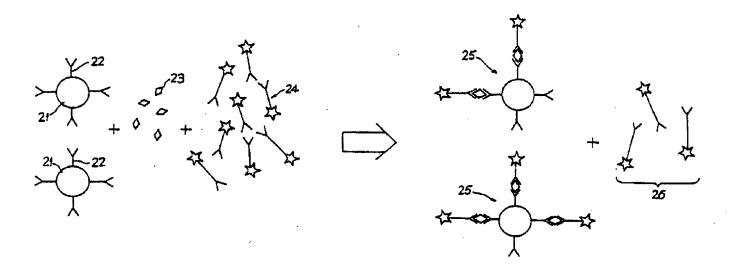
42 … 電磁石 :43 …免疫複合体

44…残余の様鏡抗体

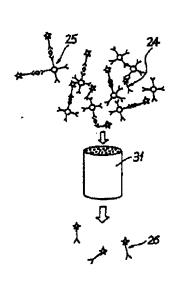
第 1 図



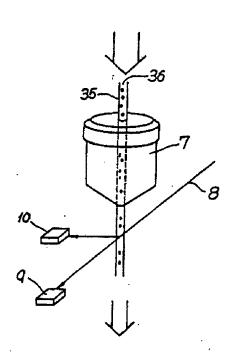
第 2 図



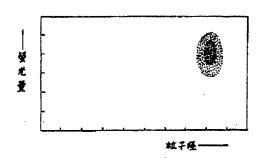
第 4 図



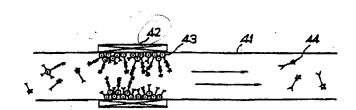
第 3 図



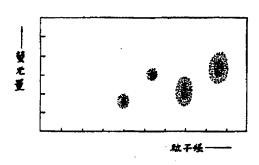
第 5 図



第7図



第6図



第1頁の続き

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A METHOD OF IMMUNOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

(21) Application No.: 59-255206

(22) Application Date: 3 December 1984

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Specification

1. A METHOD OF IMMUNOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

2. Claim

1. A method of immunological analysis characterized in that a sample, labeled antigens or antibodies obtained by labeling antigens or antibodies with a specified substance and a carrier in which antibodies or antigens have been converted to solid phase are reacted, after which the labeled antigens or antibodies, which are bonded with the aforementioned carrier in the reaction solution and those that are not bonded are separated, after which the labeled antigens or antibodies that are bonded to the aforementioned carrier are determined with a flow cytometer and the specified substance in the sample is analyzed.

3. Detailed Description of the Invention

(Technological Field)

This invention relates to a method of immunological analysis.

(Prior Art)

Because the molecular structures of proteins such as globulin, enzymes, hormones, bacteria and viruses that are present in blood and body fluids are similar and because they are present in minute quantities, it is difficult to identify and make quantitative determinations of them by ordinary analytic methods. For this reason, immunological analytic methods making use of antigen-antibody reaction are generally used in the analysis of these substances.

These immunological methods, in which labeled substances are used, include, for example, RIA (radioimmunoassay), EIA (enzyme immunoassay) and FIA (fluoro-immunoassay). These methods in which labeling substances are used are classified into heterogeneous methods in which so-called B-F separation of procedures is necessary in the determination system whereby, for example, the antibodies (antigens) that are labeled by the labeling substances and the antigens (antibodies) in the samples are separated into immune complexes (bound) in which antigen-antibody reactions are brought about and labeled antibody (antigen) that does not participate in antigen-antibody reactions and that remain in a free state and into homogeneous methods in which this is not necessary.

An analytic method based on the heterogeneous method described above in which B-F separation is performed by column chromatography is described in Japanese Patent Application Early Disclosure No. 53-10495 [1978]. In this method, B-F separation is performed using an ion exchange resin that selectively adsorbs the free substance in the solution and that does not adsorb the immune complex (bound), and, as the adsorbent, a filler for gel chromatography having a molecular sieve effect.

However, in performing B-F separation in this way using column chromatography, there are variations in the size and shape of the immune complex, B-F separation of immune complexes and free substance that are close to each other in size is difficult and precision is poor. For this reason, for example, this method cannot be used in the determination of molecules such as immune globulins that are the same as the antibodies that are used as reagents and of chemically and physically similar molecules so that the items that can be analyzed are extremely limited.

(Objective of the Invention)

The objective of this invention is to provide an immunological analytic method whereby the problems discussed above are resolved and whereby B-F separation can always be performed reliably and the desired analysis can be effected easily and with high precision.

(Synopsis of the Invention)

The immunological analytic method of this invention is characterized in that a sample, labeled antigens or antibodies obtained by labeling antigens or antibodies with a specified substance and a carrier in which antibodies or antigens have been converted to solid phase are reacted, after which the labeled antigens or antibodies, which are bonded with the aforementioned carrier in the reaction solution and those that are not bonded are separated, after which the labeled antigens or antibodies that are bonded to the aforementioned carrier are determined with a flow cytometer and the specified substance in the sample is analyzed.

(Working Examples)

Figure 1 shows an example of the flow system whereby the method of this invention is executed.

In this example, a sample containing antigens is collected by the collection device 1 and the reagents (antibodies and labeled antibodies) are injected from the reagent injection device 2, after which an antigen-antibody reaction is carried out in the reaction tank 3. Following that, the reaction solution is passed into the reaction apparatus 4 and the remaining labeled antibody (free) that did not take part in the antigen-antibody reaction is discharged into the solution discharge tank 5 in which B-F separation is effected, after which the immune complex (bound) that contains the antibodies is diluted with a buffer solution in the dilution apparatus 6 and then flows into the flow cell 7 of the

flow cytometer. Here, the scattered light that is produced by irradiation of the laser light 8 and fluorescent light are detected by the detectors 9 and 10, the output is processed by the data processing apparatus 11 and the specified antigen in the sample is analyzed.

Figure 2 shows an example of the reaction diagram in the analytic method of this invention. In this example, latex, which is indicated by the symbol 21 and which is used for the carrier is physically adsorbed, for example, to a structure made of polystyrene of a uniform diameter of 5 and the solid phase antibody 22 is converted to solid state. The symbol 23 represents the antigen that is contained in the serum, which is the sample, and which is the object of analysis, and the symbol 24 represents a labeled antibody that was obtained by labeling an antibody that is specifically bound to the antigen 23 with a fluorescent substance such as FITC. In addition, the symbol 25 represents the immune complex (bound) after the antigen-antibody reaction and the symbol 26 the remaining labeled antibody (free).

We shall now describe the action in the flow system shown in Figure 1 taking analysis of human IgE as the example. In this example, the anti-human IgE monoclonal antibody 22 is adsorbed to the latex 21 shown in Figure 2. The use of the monoclonal antibodies is, more specifically, for binding with the antigens. The antigens used as the sample are the human IgE 23. FITC labeled anti-human IgE antibodies are used as the labeled antibodies 24. It is desirable to use Fab fragments as the labeled antibodies 24 for the purposes of diminishing nonspecific adsorption and of increasing the reaction rate. The reaction is performed by adding 50 μ l of a solution of latex to which solid phase antibody is bound, 10 μ l of sample and 50 μ l of labeled antibody solution to the reaction tank 3, which accommodates 200 μ l of buffer solution. These reagents may all be added at the same time, the antigens may be added after the reaction with the solid phase antibodies or they may be added successively so as to react with the labeled antibodies.

When the reaction is performed, for example, at 37°C for 10 minutes, the immune complex 25 comprised of solid phase antibodies-antigens-labeled antibodies and the remaining labeled antibodies 26 are produced.

Following this, 300 μ l of reaction solution is suctioned from the reaction tank 3 and is then passed into the separation apparatus 4, for example, the porous ceramic tube 31 shown in Figure 3, in which B-F separation is performed. The diameters of the pores of the porous ceramic material are uniform. For example, when the pore diameters are made to 1 μ m, the immune complex 25 of anti-human IgE MCA solid phase latex and antigen IgE-FITC labeled anti-human IgE Fab fragments and the remaining solid phase antibody latex that did not take part in the antigen-antibody reaction do not pass through the porous ceramic material because the size of the latex is 5 μ m.

By contrast, because the size of the remaining labeled antibodies 26 is at the most several tens of nm, they can pass through the ceramic material with the result that B-F separation is performed by the principles of filtration.

The remaining immune complex that could not pass through the porous ceramic tube 31 is washed by pouring buffer solution from the buffer solution tank 6 through it several times, after which it is diluted with a fixed quantity of buffer solution poured into the flow cytometer shown in Figure 4, with determinations then being made.

The flow cytometer, as indicated previously, is a dedicated analytic device for cells. The solution 36 that has undergone B-F separation is poured into needle 35 of the flow cell 7 after the reaction, the flow is irradiated by the laser light 8 and determinations are made of the scattered light and fluorescent light that emanate from the cells. Ordinarily, the scattered light in front is detected by the detector 9, which is positioned essentially parallel to the incident laser light. It is used primarily for determination of cell size. The fluorescent light is detected by the detector 10, which is positioned in the direction perpendicular to the angle of incidence of the laser light 8. It is used for the determination of fluorescent substances on cell surfaces. Because the laser light 8 is of a single wavelength, there are limitations on the fluorescent pigments that can be used. The fluorescent pigment FITC that is used in the analytic method in this example absorbs light in the vicinity of a wavelength of 489 nm and emits fluorescent light at a wavelength of 488 nm. Therefore, in this case, it is desirable to use an Ar laser of a wavelength of 488 nm.

Thus, when the sample passes through the flow cytometer, the size of the immune complex and the quantity of fluorescent light/1 latex are determined in the data processing unit 11 on the basis of the outputs of the detectors 9 and 10 and the cytogram shown in Figure 5 is obtained from these two parameters. In figure 5, the vertical axis shows the quantity of fluorescent light and the horizontal axis shows the diameters of the particles. Here, the latex that did not take part in the antigen-antibody reaction did not emit fluorescence and therefore is not represented in the cytogram. However, the latex that formed the immune complex is indicated in correspondence to the quantity of fluorescent light at its diameter. Thus, when the determined value for the quantity of fluorescent light is obtained, the IgE concentration in the sample can be found on the basis of the measurement of the fluorescence intensity found in the same way in advance from a known concentration series of IgE antigen specimens. In this way, by simply introducing a sample into the flow system described above, the series of processes of B-F separation and determination can be performed by means of a simple reaction system in a short time (determination being possible with a flow cytometer at approximately 5000 particles/second). Moreover, highly quantitative analytic results can be obtained.

In another embodiment of this invention, mixed carriers in which antigens of respectively different particle diameters are bound to multiple latex particles of different particle sizes are used. The mixed carrier, the sample containing various antigens and various labeled antibodies that are specific antibodies to the respective antigens and that been labeled with fluorescent agent are added and a reaction is carried out, after which B-F separation is performed by the same principal as in the example described above, the fluorescence intensities of the immune complexes with respect to different latex particle sizes then being found by flow cytometry. Because the cytogram shown in Figure 6 was

obtained in this way, <u>multiple antigen concentrations can be analyzed at the same time</u> from the various fluorescence intensities.

In a further embodiment of this invention, the electromagnet 42 is installed in a part of the flow tube 41 as shown in Figure 7 and magnetic latex particles having iron cores are used as the carriers to be reacted with the samples. Thus, when the sample flows through the flow tube at a slow speed after the reaction, the magnetic latex is suctioned by passing electric current into the electromagnet 42, the immune complex 43 is attached to the inside surface of the flow tube 41 and the remaining labeled antibody 44 is passed through the tube. Following this, it is washed by pouring through dilution buffer solution, after which the electromagnet 42 is turned off and dilution is effected with a fixed quantity of buffer solution. In this way, as in the example described above, B-F separation can be performed reliably in the flow system.

In the embodiment described above, latex was used as the carrier. However, the carrier is not limited to latex and materials such as artificial cells of uniform molecular weight can be used in any desired shape or size depending on the object of determination. This invention can be applied effectively in analysis by competitive methods. Moreover, because there is a substance that is used as a carrier in this invention, B-F separation can be carried out using column chromatography as described above.

(Effect of the Invention)

As described above, because, by means of this invention, an antibody solid phase carrier is used, there is a great difference between the sizes of the immune complex and the remaining labeled antibodies. Consequently, B-F separation in the flow system is simple and can be performed reliably. Further, because the determinations are made with a flow cytometer after B-F separation, analytic results of high precision can be obtained. In addition, a carrier of any desired size can be selected. Consequently, there is no limitation on the items for analysis and analysis of many items can be performed at the same time by using multiple particle diameters. Further, B-F separation by flow systems, which is troublesome, is simplified and automation for high-speed determination of many samples is possible.

4. Brief Explanation of the Figures

Figure 1 shows an example of a flow system for execution of the method this invention.

Figure 2 is a reaction diagram of an example in the method of this invention.

Figure 3 is a diagram for illustrating an example of B-F separation.

Figure 4 is a diagram for illustrating the flow cytometer.

Figure 5 shows an example of a cytogram.

Figure 1

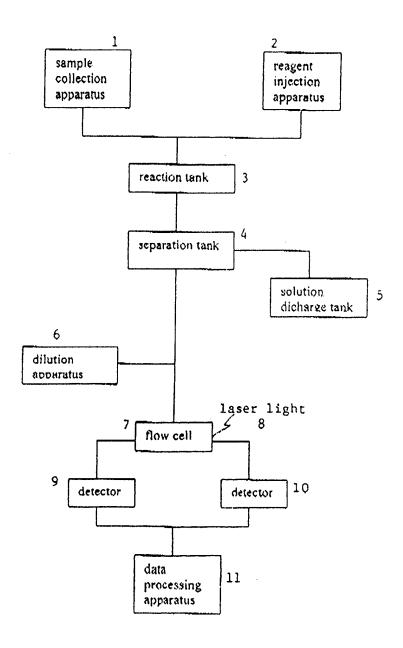
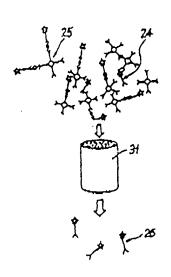


Figure 2

Figure 3



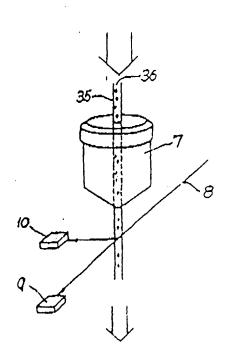


Figure 4

Figure 6 is a figure that shows another example of a cytogram.

Figure 7 is a figure for illustrating another example of B-F separation.

- 1 sample collection apparatus
- 2 reagent injection apparatus
- 3 reaction tank

4 - separation apparatus

5 - fluid discharge tank

6 - dilution apparatus

7 - flow cell

8 - laser light

- 9, 10 detectors
- 11 data processing apparatus
- 21 latex

22 - solid phase antibodies

23 - antigens

24 - labeled antibodies

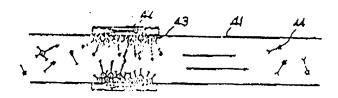
- 25 immune complex
- 26 remaining labeled antibodies
- 31 porous ceramic tube
- 35 needle

41 - flow tube

42 - electromagnet

- 43 immune complex
- 44 remaining labeled antibody

Figure 7



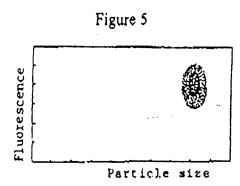


Figure 6

